United Nations S/2000/811

Security Council

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18 August 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 18 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a press statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, entitled "Stop Eritrea's war crimes in the twenty-first century", issued on 18 August 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fesseha A. **Tessema**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-61270 (E) 210800

Annex to the letter dated 18 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

18 August 2000

Stop Eritrea's war crimes in the twenty-first century

The war crimes being committed against Ethiopian citizens in Eritrea are worsening by the day. Over 30,000 Ethiopians are incarcerated in concentration camps and large numbers are in prison. Since the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities in June this year, over 20,000 have been forced to walk through minefields and cross rivers in full flood. To make matters worse, selected Ethiopian women are being detained by Eritrean troops in the border area for even harsher treatment and rape. In the past few days alone the whereabouts of 10 women separated from the rest by soldiers near the Mereb River is unknown. Bodies of three of the above-mentioned women have been washed ashore the Mereb River. They were murdered by the Eritrean troops to silence the testimony of their rape.

Furthermore, families of officers of the Tigrai Development Association in Eritrea imprisoned in Sambal Central Prison, Asmara, for over two years were informed that they no longer needed to provide food for their imprisoned family members. It is feared that these persons may have been killed.

The Eritrean regime has been responsible for the disappearance of thousands of Ethiopians in Eritrea. How many of the "disappeared" are alive in concentration camps or dead is not known. No one, not even the International Committee of the Red Cross, has access to the slave labour camps in Eritrea.

Returnees have so far provided the names and details of 1,074 of their disappeared relatives. The evidence is being compiled of these unfortunate people, whose plight is unknown. They may be alive. They may have been killed. A vivid testimony to these disappearances has appeared in a new publication entitled "Stop Eritrea's war crimes in the twenty-first century", published by the non-governmental organization, the Law Forum for Peace.

The fact that the Eritrean authorities have stepped up their crimes against Ethiopian nationals in Eritrea following the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement is evidence of the desire by Eritrea to continue the war by other means, and to deny the two countries the possibility of conclusively ending the conflict. The regime in Asmara is engaged in activities that could result in the unravelling of the peace process.

Ethiopia has been appealing to anyone who would listen to do what is possible to put a stop to the war crimes perpetuated against the defenceless by the Eritrean regime, so far without result. The international community cannot ignore what is happening and allow such inhumanity to continue. All that Ethiopia is asking is for its nationals to be freed from bondage and allowed to return home in safety and in the presence of ICRC, and for Ethiopian prisoners of war to be visited by ICRC. Unfortunately this is too much to ask of the Eritrean authorities.

Ethiopia has the obligation to protect its citizens from the crimes being committed against them by the cruel and irresponsible regime in Eritrea. Ethiopia

has so far exercised restraint in the hope that the international community could prevail upon Asmara. But there is a limit to restraint and the regime in Eritrea should consider itself warned that it will be held responsible for all the consequences of its actions.

It is in the light of the foregoing that the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia appeals for the last time to the international community to save Ethiopians from a regime that is committing war crimes in this day and age against innocent and unprotected civilians.

1. Ethiopians who wish to be repatriated to their homeland must be allowed to do so without any discrimination of sex, age or religion, in the presence of ICRC.

2. The cruel practice of forcing Ethiopians into slave labour camps must be stopped immediately. The thousands of Ethiopians languishing in such camps have to be released, and those who choose to return to their country must be allowed to do so.

3. Those who have disappeared must be accounted for. It has to be reported whether the "disappeared" are alive or dead.

4. Ethiopians jailed in Eritrea's jails for the only reason of being Ethiopians must be immediately released. Those that wish to return to Ethiopia should be allowed to leave Eritrea.

5. The International Committee of the Red Cross and other mandated bodies have to be provided immediate access to Ethiopian prisoners of war. Information must be provided on their condition, on those who are alive and those who have died. Prisoners of war must be provided the possibility to communicate with their families as stipulated by the Geneva Convention.

6. The Eritrean authorities should put an end to the repugnant propaganda of hate and intolerance that is causing much moral and psychological damage to the victims, and harming the peace process as a whole.

7. An international team made up of representatives of the Organization of African Unity, the European Union and the United Nations should be immediately dispatched to Eritrea to look into the situation in the concentration camps and prisons and with regard to the prisoners of war.

United Nations A/54/962–S/2000/812

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Security Council

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Agenda items 116 (a) and (d)
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments; comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 16 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit a statement issued today, 16 August, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea regarding the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian citizens living in Eritrea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 116 (a) and (d), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haile **Menkerios**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-61333 (E) 220800

Annex to the letter dated 16 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

16 August 2000

Ethiopia has an obligation to receive its own nationals

The Government of Eritrea has recently initiated the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian citizens living in Eritrea. This was induced by the massive population dislocation that occurred because of Ethiopia's war of invasion. Ethiopians dislocated by the war could not subsist in makeshift camps for an extended period of time. These constituted the majority of those being repatriated on a voluntary basis, although there were also a small number who had to be sent home because they lacked the legal status for residence. The International Committee of the Red Cross was briefed of this situation and requested to monitor the process as well as to provide logistical support for its expedition.

The repatriation process was hampered from the beginning by the Ethiopian regime, which refused to receive its own nationals, as international law requires. After falsely accusing Eritrea of "holding Ethiopian nationals in detention camps", the Ethiopian regime offered flimsy excuses for its refusal to accept the return of its citizens. Initially Ethiopia stated that it could receive only a maximum of 500 of its nationals at a time, even though it has on numerous occasions abandoned thousands of ethnic Eritreans at unannounced border locations. When this arbitrary restriction was overcome through the intervention of ICRC, the Ethiopian authorities raised, in order to suspend the planned repatriation, the excuse that an "alternative route" had to be employed. This obstruction came at the last minute, when ICRC had completed all transport arrangements for about 2,000 Ethiopians stranded in Sheeb.

Ethiopia's rejection of the ICRC-sanctioned Kisad-Iqa/Mereb route as "hazardous" was both spurious and cynical. The fact is that the route happens to be the same route through which Ethiopia deported Eritrean civilians, penniless and without any assistance, during the period when the repatriation of Ethiopians was scheduled to take place.

The Government of Eritrea waited for two weeks in the hope that ICRC would persuade Ethiopia to accept its own nationals. It even proposed to ICRC to arrange for either an airlift or transit through a third country. When these options were not taken up, the Government of Eritrea arranged for the repatriation of the Ethiopians through the safest routes of Tserona and Kisad-Iqa.

The international community is well aware that Ethiopia has:

- Deported about 75,000 ethnic Eritreans in a most inhuman manner;
- Confiscated their assets and properties;
- Separated families, deporting some while detaining others for later deportation;
- Broken up mixed marriages by deporting the ethnic Eritrean spouses;

- Prevented the voluntary repatriation of ethnic Eritreans while holding up or forcing out to third countries those of military age (over 5,000 have been forced to flee to Kenya alone);

- Uprooted entire ethnic Eritrean communities from villages which they built and developed over generations in western Tigray (39 villages and 15,000 people).

Moreover, the Ethiopian regime continues its incarceration of about 2,000 Eritreans in the Dedessa concentration camp where a dozen, including three university exchange students, have died under torture. There is also the grave issue of over 1,000 missing Eritrean civilians still unaccounted for.

Ethiopia's violations of the human rights of Eritreans have not been confined to its territory. It has, after confiscating their properties and livestock, expelled over 15,000 Eritreans from the areas of the Gash-Barka zone currently under its occupation. This is in addition to Ethiopia's wanton killings and destruction of both private and public installations and assets in all the areas of its incursion.

Although there were initial protests, such as those of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations system, the United States Government, etc., the absence of effective response from the international community has allowed Ethiopia to perpetrate these gross violations of the human rights of ethnic Eritreans with impunity. Indeed, many Governments and international organizations refrained from openly condemning Ethiopia's atrocities in the name of "quiet diplomacy" or, as in the case of ICRC, owing to "statutory constraints" against speaking out.

The international community has consistently noted the absence of reciprocal action by the Government of Eritrea in the face of Ethiopia's persistent excesses. It is common knowledge that Eritrea has respected the right of Ethiopians to live and work in Eritrea as aliens without any discrimination and forestalled, by policy and action, inflaming communal relations or inciting ethnic hatred.

The reality of the massive dislocation and displacement in Eritrea of the civilian population, including tens of thousands of Ethiopians, resulting from Ethiopia's latest invasion, has imposed the need to provide for the repatriation of the affected Ethiopians. While such repatriation is voluntary for the overwhelming majority, it also includes those who are not entitled to legal residence. It must be underscored in this regard that the Government of Eritrea has duly informed and invited ICRC to cooperate in the process, requesting it specifically to facilitate safe and escorted transport. Eritrea's inability to ensure that the repatriation of Ethiopian citizens be accorded ICRC oversight results, as noted above, from Ethiopia's refusal to cooperate.

United Nations A/54/963–S/2000/813

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Security Council

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18 August 2000

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 63
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 17 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 17 August 2000 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volkan **Vural**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-61327 (E) 220800

Annex to the letter dated 17 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 20 July 2000 (A/54/944-S/2000/711) and 1 August 2000 (A/54/955-S/2000/763) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding, inter alia, "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar unfounded allegations were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently, in my letter dated 28 July 2000 (A/54/951-S/2000/755). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

As reiterated in my previous letters, such allegations are based on the false assumption that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration, which purports to be the legitimate "government of Cyprus", extends over the whole island. This well-known position denies the existence of two politically equal peoples, namely the Turkish Cypriot people and the Greek Cypriot people, and their respective states, thus making it difficult to reach a comprehensive, realistic and viable settlement in Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot administration, supported by Greece, is continuing with its military build-up in South Cyprus, which heightens the crisis of confidence between the two peoples and further impedes the current efforts towards reconciliation in Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot daily *Fileleftheros* reported on 3 August 2000 that Mr. Sokrates Hasikos, the Greek Cypriot Defense Minister, stated that the Greek Cypriot administration would continue to acquire new weapons, irrespective of whether or not talks for a resolution of the Cyprus issue were taking place, and that the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot military manoeuvres code-named Nikiforos would take place as planned. Mr. Yiannakis Cassoulides, the Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister, also stated that efforts to bolster the military capabilities of the Greek Cypriot National Guard would continue and that "the Greek Cypriot administration would not accept any advice from foreigners as to how the Nikiforos military manoeuvres or the military parade on 1 October 2000 should be held." (*Fileleftheros*, 9 August 2000)

Mr. Hasikos was further quoted by *Fileleftheros* of 7 August 2000 as having stated that the Russian TOR-M1 missile systems, already deployed in South Cyprus, would be operational within a few months and that the military preparations being carried out in the context of the joint military doctrine with Greece would be evident at the military parade on 1 October 2000, as well as during the joint military manoeuvres. It was also reported that the second stage of the construction work at the Paphos military air base, which involves the building of auxiliary facilities, has already begun.

In view of the above, it is my duty to reiterate, once again, that the hostile military preparations, as well as the misinformation campaign conducted by the Greek Cypriot administration against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, constitute a major obstacle to achieving reconciliation on the island. It is my Government's expectation that the international community will strongly urge the Greek Cypriot side to abandon its policy of escalation and concentrate its efforts on preparing the necessary ground for meaningful negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement between the two parties.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations S/2000/814

Security Council

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18 August 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 18 August 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 23 June to 22 July 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-61264 (E) 210800

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operation of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (23 June-22 July 2000), there were approximately 43,600 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) deployed in the theatre, with no major changes in deployment since the last report.

Security

2. The situation in Kosovo remained tense over the period, with continuing ethnic violence and related crime against all groups, in particular Serbs and Roma. Kosovo Serb houses in Cernica (Multinational Brigade (MNB) (East)) were attacked by grenades at the end of June. There were no injuries. At the beginning of July there were mortar attacks against unoccupied Kosovo Serb houses near Velica Hoca (MNB (South)) which caused minor damage. The attacks led to roadblocks being set up by local Serb villagers, who subsequently stoned vehicles belonging to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) which were trying to enter the village. KFOR has given priority to countering these forms of criminal violence.

3. On 7 July, three Roma were injured in a grenade attack in the Roma village in northern Mitrovica (MNB (North)).

4. On 12 July, three Kosovo Serbs were shot and wounded near Klokot in MNB (East). Following the detention of a Kosovo Albanian for the shooting, approximately 150 protestors blocked a road and stoned UNMIK police and KFOR troops.

5. Two Orthodox churches were destroyed over the reporting period: one at Podgorce (MNB (East)) on 30 June, and a second at Pomazatin (MNB (Centre)) on 16 July.

6. The town of Mitrovica was the scene of several demonstrations by Kosovo Serbs over the reporting period. On 11 July, approximately 150 demonstrated in protest at the curfew imposed in the town. Following the detention by UNMIK police of a Kosovo Serb on 17 July, there was sporadic gunfire in the town, and an UNMIK policeman was taken hostage for a number of hours. Demonstrations were held outside the court building on 18 July, with Serbs demanding the release of the detainee. Roadblocks were erected in the northern part of Mitrovica, and stones were thrown at KFOR and UNMIK vehicles. KFOR troops increased their patrols and checkpoints, and the demonstrations eventually ended without incident. The detainee was later released, pending further formal judicial action.

7. Apart from some minor episodes of hostility directed at KFOR troops, most anti-KFOR actions took the form of demonstrations. Kosovo Albanians held several demonstrations against seizures of weapons by KFOR and the Force's alleged anti-Kosovo Albanian attitude.

8. Throughout the period, KFOR troops continued to uncover and confiscate caches of weapons, ammunition and explosives. Among the weapons uncovered were pistols and ammunition in a warehouse in Orahovac (MNB (South)) at the end of June; an AK-47, hand grenades and ammunition in Drobnjak (MNB (East)) on 4 July; rifles, guns, grenades, a Serb police armoured vehicle and military clothing in several villages in MNB (North) on 5 July; and ammunition near the Slivovo Valley in MNB (Centre) on 9 July.

Illegal border activity

9. KFOR troops continued to provide appropriate control of Kosovo's internal boundaries and external borders and recognized crossing points. All but two of the recognized crossing points within each MNB into the ground safety zone remain closed. Over the reporting period, there were again a number of attempted illegal border crossings at the border crossing point of Morina South (MNB (South)). On 26 June, an Albanian was detained for trying to cross the border illegally from Kosovo into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[1] with a large number of shotgun ammunition components. On 18 July, three people were detained for attempting to illegally cross the border into Kosovo at Morina.

10. There were continued reports of paramilitary activities being conducted by the "Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac" in and around Dobrosin in the ground safety zone, including mortar

[1] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

attacks as well as small arms against elements of the Ministry of the Interior Police, causing some casualties.

Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) — arms embargo

11. Although KFOR operations continue to result in weapons seizures, there have been no reported violations of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998).

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

12. The number of reported incidents of non-compliance and disciplinary offences by individual members of the Kosovo Protection Corps decreased during the month of July. However, the frequency of weapons violations and incidents involving threatening behaviour remain at a significant level. Recent discoveries of large arsenals in the Drenica Valley and the increased attention paid by KFOR to the activities of the Kosovo Protection Corps have also resulted in KFOR gaining delayed access to the Corps' camps on several occasions. Acts of non-compliance by the Kosovo Protection Corps have been most frequent in the MNB (West) area of operations, where, since mid-February, 53 out of a total of 164 non-compliance cases have been reported. Over the same period, MNB (South) reported 28 cases of non-compliance, MNB (North) 36 cases, MNB (Centre) 27 cases and MNB (East) 9 cases.

13. During the reporting period, members of the Kosovo Protection Corps in MNB (West) were involved in three major acts of non-compliance. The first involved a regional task group Commander's misuse of his position to intimidate an UNMIK employee. The second incident involved 15 members of the Corps interfering with a KFOR arrest operation, and the third involved a member of the Corps who was arrested on 5 July and charged with attempted murder. As a result, on 7 July, the Commander of KFOR called a special Joint Implementation Commission meeting with both KFOR and the Kosovo Protection Corps commanders, where he made clear that he expected greater cooperation from the Corps and that there would be tighter control of the regional task groups by MNB commanders.

14. On 25 June, the new structure of the regional task groups was finalized, and each now has the same strength (614), sub-units, job descriptions, proportion of active and reserve members and the same proportion of minorities. The Kosovo Protection Corps, in close cooperation with KFOR, is finalizing the new structures for the Corps headquarters and central units, with a projected completion date of mid-August.

15. The Army (VJ) and security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remain generally compliant with the terms of the military technical agreement and continue to be cooperative in their dealings with KFOR.

Cooperation with international organizations

16. KFOR continued to provide assistance to the international and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo on a daily basis, on request.

17. At 24 July, the UNMIK police force numbered 3,133, including 707 members of the special police unit. A further 156 police personnel have been assigned to work with the Kosovo Police School. Over the reporting period, the KFOR Commander issued KFOR directive 25, on cooperation with UNMIK police, aimed at ensuring maximum KFOR support to UNMIK police in the latter's efforts to stabilize the security situation and to reinforce public order in Kosovo. To achieve this goal, joint operations centres will be created at brigade and battle group level. KFOR will react immediately to protect UNMIK police and other international organizations when threatened. The KFOR Commander also established a number of permanent procedures designed to further enhance coordination and cooperation between KFOR and UNMIK police.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

18. There were a total of 11,443 organized voluntary returns, primarily Kosovo Albanian, during the month of June. During the first six months of 2000 there were a total of 43,192 such returns.

Outlook

19. Inter-ethnic tension will continue, the primary challenge for KFOR in the weeks and months ahead being to contain the violence and to defuse potential flashpoints. The situation is likely to be exacerbated by the increased number of returns expected during the summer months and by a possible increase in tension resulting from political rivalry in the run up to the municipal elections.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 19 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge the strongest protest at the terrorist attack at the offices of the Committee of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for Cooperation with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, in Pristina, which amounts to a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and the non-implementation of the mandate by the Kosovo Force (KFOR).

On 18 August 2000, at about 9.30 a.m., ethnic Albanian terrorists planted an explosive device in the building housing the Committee of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for Cooperation with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and Metohija in which, at the time of the attack, there were 20 Committee employees. The building, housing also the offices of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and allegedly provided security by KFOR round the clock, was severely damaged.

The attack represents yet another act of aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as a heinous act of terror, the provenance of which is in the deliberate campaign of the United States Administration which has put the United Nations mission under its tutelage and outside the control of the Security Council. It is evident that the overt collaboration of the representatives of the international mission with terrorists and separatists continues.

Only four days after the armed attack by over 1,000 heavily armed members of KFOR on the civilian population of Kosovska Mitrovica and the military occupation of "Trepca", as well as the vandal demolition and shutdown of the only remaining Serbian-language media in Kosovo and Metohija, the Pristina newspaper "*Jedinstvo*" and the Zvecan Radio "S", the ethnic Albanian terrorists continued their reign of terror. There is no doubt that they have understood the occupation of "Trepca" by KFOR and UNMIK as their victory and the defeat of Serbs and are now attempting to cut off all links of the remaining Serbs with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its constituent Republic of Serbia.

This crime provides also eloquent proof of the existence of the concept and strategy aimed at systematically violating Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and at ethnically cleansing the remaining Serbs, Muslims, Roma, Goranci, Turks,

00-61390 (E) 210800

Egyptians and other non-Albanians by rendering support to separatism and terrorism. I recall that 1,036 persons, primarily Serbs, were killed on the KFOR and UNMIK watch, 960 kidnapped and 360,000 expelled. As a consequence, the United Nations mission in Kosovo and Metohija has lost its purpose, wherefore it is necessary to call off its presence in southern Serbian province which is a part of the sovereign territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Enclosed herewith is the statement of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the event.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 19 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Federal Government

In the wake of today's heinous terrorist attack against the seat of the Committee of the Federal Government for Cooperation with the United Nations in Pristina, the Federal Government assessed that this is yet another act of aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, its official representatives and its sovereignty and territorial integrity. This criminal attack was carried out at 9.30 a.m., by using a bomb of high destructive power at a time when in the seat of the Committee, located in the centre of Pristina, there were 20 Committee members and employees, performing their regular duties. The explosion caused the devastation of the building, installations and substantial material damage.

The Federal Government condemns in the strongest terms this blatant terrorist attack, which occurred only four days after the armed attack of over 1,000 fully armed KFOR soldiers against the peaceful residents of Kosovska Mitrovica, an armed occupation of the Shareholding Corporation "Trepca", as well as the barbaric demolition and shutting down of the only remaining media in the Serbian language — "*Jedinstvo*" daily and Radio "S". This confirms that the escalation of terrorism and the usage of armed force against peaceful population, institutions of civil society and official State representative offices is an integral part of the scenario of a new phase of intimidation and ethnic cleansing through the cooperation of Albanian terrorists and forces under the United Nations mandate.

The Federal Government recalls that, under the auspices of UNMIK and KFOR, during the period of over a year, 1,038 persons were killed, 960 were abducted, while 360,000 Serbs, Roma, Muslims, Goranci, Turks and Egyptians were expelled by terror. These unthinkable mass crimes testify that the Security Council, regardless of its authority under the Charter of the United Nations, has no control over the forces and representatives formally under its mandate, but that these forces, representatives and Albanian terrorists in Kosovo and Metohija are controlled exclusively by the United States Administration. It thus degrades the Security Council, reducing it to an instrument of its hegemonism and the policy of fait accompli, which brings about unforeseeable consequences to the future of international relations.

The Federal Government emphasizes that the mission of the United Nations in Kosovo and Metohija has, through pressures of the United States Administration, been transformed into an ally of Albanian separatism and terrorism, a lever for ethnic cleansing, an instrument of the destabilization of this part of Europe, and reiterates its position that, in the interest of the protection of the reputation of the United Nations, of peace and stability, security of citizens and peaceful political solution, such mission of the United Nations be terminated.

Belgrade, 18 August 2000

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Agenda items 116 (a) and (d)
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments; comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 21 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a statement issued today, 21 August, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea regarding Ethiopia's gross violation of human rights (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 116 (a) and (d), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haile **Menkerios**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-61484 (E) 240800

Annex to the letter dated 21 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

21 August 2000

Ethiopia's gross violation of human rights can never be whitewashed

It is a matter of public record that, as a result of Ethiopia's expansionist designs, a simple border dispute that could have been resolved by peaceful means has ended up being the biggest war in Africa. This tragic war has incurred enormous destruction and the loss of precious lives.

What is perhaps more painful is the negative and long-term impact on the hitherto solid relationship of the two brotherly people's caused by Ethiopia's deliberate and calculated policy of ethnic hatred. As has been documented, this has resulted in the wilful persecution of ethnic Eritreans in Ethiopia throughout the past two years, the overwhelming majority of whom have been deported with the confiscation of their life-long earnings; many have died in prison under torture; thousands more are missing and others continue to languish in the Dedesa and other concentration camps.

These gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law were not unavoidable occurrences associated with war. They were rather the products of a deliberate and calculated ethnic policy. In fact, they were invoked and articulated by none other than the Ethiopian Prime Minister who, only two years ago, justified the illegal — and indeed immoral — persecution of ethnic Eritreans in the face of international disapprobation. In an official interview, the Prime Minister declared: "Ethiopia has the sovereign right to expel anyone the colour of whose eyes it did not like" and that "his government's action was no different from what the United States Government was doing to Mexicans".

Ethiopia's gross violation of basic humanitarian and international law have intensified in the past three months, especially in the sovereign Eritrean territories it continues to occupy following the invasion that it launched last May. As the following facts illustrate, the regime:

- Extended its policy of ethnic cleansing to expel 15,000 Eritreans from their own territory in the southern Gash region in Eritrea by confiscating their livestock and other property;
- Continued to deport ethnic Eritreans from Ethiopia and dump them at unannounced border posts;
- Engaged in State vandalism to wilfully destroy private, commercial and public assets including schools, hospitals and other developmental installations in the areas under its control;
- Brought civilian "looting teams" from Ethiopia to ransack the property of villagers in the areas that fell under its occupation;
- Killed 239 civilians (121 in the southern zone and 117 in the western zone respectively) while causing the disappearance of 36 others. Its army of

occupation has abducted several youths between the ages of 9 and 14 in the southern zone and raped many women (the full report is being compiled by independent bodies).

It is against this dismal human rights record that Ethiopia is today falsely accusing Eritrea of perpetrating "violations of human rights" of Ethiopians living in Eritrea including detaining them in "concentration camps and slave labour!". These preposterous allegations are inspired by three motives:

- Ethiopia's unwillingness to receive its own nationals;
- Its desire to torpedo the peace process through unfounded excuses;
- Its desire to portray the Government of Eritrea as an equal violator of human rights with itself and thereby whitewash its crimes.

The facts are otherwise clear. Eritrea did not initiate, and has not followed in the footsteps of Ethiopia, to pursue a dangerous and shortsighted policy of ethnic cleansing. It is a matter of record that Eritrea took responsible measures, including through a parliamentary bill and public campaigns, to stem the inflammation of ethnic hatred and to ensure the respect of the rights of Ethiopians residing in Eritrea.

The massive population dislocation induced by Ethiopia's invasion has however compelled Eritrea to make arrangements for the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopians with the collaboration of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The overwhelming majority of these Ethiopians had fled their residences in Eritrean villages and towns in the face of the targeting of civilians by the Ethiopian armed forces. Obviously, there were also those who were not in possession of valid residence or work permits.

Eritrea has scrupulously adhered to the letter and spirit of human rights and humanitarian laws and strictly followed the procedures that govern repatriation. No property was confiscated; no house was expropriated; no bank account was frozen. There was no torture, degrading treatment, or any other form of abuse. It is to be understood that Eritrea has the right under human rights and humanitarian law to repatriate any Ethiopians with no valid papers in view of the fact that the Ethiopian Government unilaterally revoked the bilateral agreement which exempted each other's nationals from the standard requirements of legal residence.

Eritrea's responsible policy and record of the treatment of Ethiopians living in Eritrea has met the approval of credible human rights organizations and agencies. This policy will continue especially as both sides have signed an agreement on cessation of hostilities. On the other hand, it must be recognized that Ethiopia has an obligation to receive its own nationals, those who want to go back voluntarily as well as those who may have to be repatriated because they do not possess the necessary legal documents.

Eritrea will continue to make sure that the process of repatriation will be conducted in a manner that ensures the safety and dignity of those affected. To this end, it has sought, and will continue to seek, the active involvement of ICRC in the process through the provision of logistical support and escort. This has been made impossible in the past few weeks because the Ethiopian Government refused to cooperate, thereby blocking ICRC involvement in monitoring the process.